

Prejudice & Quotas

Instructions

When doing the reading for this class, there are the two basic kinds of information you need to understand:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, it is *information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible position on an issue, rather than another.

Reading

Rachels, J. (1997). Coping with Prejudice. In *Can Ethics Provide Answers? And Other Essays in Moral Philosophy* (pp. 199-212). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Optional: Qatar General Secretariat for Development Planning. (2011, March). Increasing Women's Empowerment. In *Qatar National Development Strategy 2011-2016* (pp. 175-178). Doha, Qatar: Gulf Publishing & Printing Company.

Optional: Al-Thani, A. B. F. (2012, December 17). Women in Qatar: Quotas, Qualifications, and Qatarization. [Online video]. YouTube. Retrieved November 13, 2017 from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYDJxsDiDwQ>.

Questions

As you read, keep these questions in mind:

1. What is "heightism"? Does James Rachels believe that it is a serious social issue in need of immediate corrective action? Why does Rachels present this issue?
2. According to Rachels, what four circumstances must hold in order to justify the imposition of quotas on a decision-making process?
3. What objections against quotas does Rachels consider, and how does he try to respond to them?
4. One goal of Qatar's National Development Strategy (see the optional reading from the Qatar General Secretariat for Development Planning) is to increase the number of women in leadership positions.

Should the Qatar government start instituting and enforcing quotas to help achieve this goal?

(For more on this, you might watch the optional video of a talk by Dr. Sheikha Al-Thani.)

To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.